

QuickAlerts Messages November 2012

QuickAlerts –November 1, 2012

Subject: Electronic Management System (EMS) Unavailable

The Electronic Management System, located at Memphis, Tennessee and Martinsburg, West Virginia is currently experiencing problems and is unavailable. We will issue another Quick Alert when the system is available. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you.

QuickAlerts –November 1, 2012

Subject: Electronic Management System (EMS) Is Available

The Electronic Management System, located at Memphis, Tennessee and Martinsburg, West Virginia is now available. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you.

QuickAlerts –November 1, 2012

Subject: e-Services suite unavailable

The e-Services suite of services, including Transcript Delivery System, e-file Application, Disclosure Authorization and TIN Matching will be unavailable from Saturday, November 3 at 9 p.m. Eastern time until Monday, November 5 at 6 a.m. for routine maintenance. Updates are available on the [e-services](#) login page. Thank you for your patience as we complete this required maintenance.

QuickAlerts –November 2, 2012

Subject: Impact of Daylight Savings Time Change on Modernized e-File (MeF)

The IRS would like to alert you to an issue that could occur during the Daylight Savings time change scheduled this weekend. In past years, a few transmitters experienced problems with files created during the hour when the clocks moved.

We recommend that you do not create transmission files during the hour of 1:59 am, Eastern to 2:59 am, Eastern on Sunday, November 4, 2012. Please adjust the time based on your time zone.

If you experience any problems with transmission files created early Sunday morning, please let us know through the [MeF Mailbox](#).

QuickAlerts –November 2, 2012

Subject: Form families 1120 and 1065 - TY2012 Schemas posted

ATTN: Software Developers, Return Transmitters and Authorized IRS e-file Providers/EROs:
The following Tax Year 2012 files have been posted on IRS.gov:
Form 1120/1120S/1120-F Schemas, Business Rules, and the Release Memo for [TY2012v1.2](#)
Form 1065/1065B Schemas and Business Rules, [TY2012v2.0](#)
The [Forms and Attachments Listing 2012](#)
Questions or comments may be directed to the e-help Desk at 1-866-255-0654.

QuickAlerts –November 2, 2012

Subject: Modernized e-File (MeF) Assurance Testing System (ATS)

ALERT: The Modernized e-File ATS system will become operational as of **10:00 am Eastern**, this morning Monday, November 5, 2012. You can test Tax Years 2012, 2011, and 2010 for both Individual and Business returns.
Beginning this afternoon (November 5th) and lasting through this Friday (November 9th) the IRS will host a daily ATS/Production conference call for interested IMF and BMF software developers, transmitters and states to discuss any issues or concerns.
Friday, we will determine what the schedule will be going forward.
Call-In Information:
Number: 1-866-606-4717 access code 9412199
Time: 4:00 pm, Eastern to 5:00 pm, Eastern
We look forward to your participation.

QuickAlerts –November 5, 2012

Subject: Tax Preparers suspected of filing inaccurate EITC claims receive warning letters

During October and November 2012, the IRS will send letters to preparers suspected of filing inaccurate EITC claims. The letters pinpoint the primary issues identified on the returns, explain the consequences of filing inaccurate claims for EITC and advise preparers that IRS will continue monitoring the types of EITC claims they file.
Check out [EITC Central](#) for more information about IRS compliance efforts and how to avoid penalties.

QuickAlerts –November 5, 2012

Subject: Assurance Testing System (ATS) and Participants Acceptance Testing System (PATS) for Tax Year 2012

ATTN: Software Developers, Return Transmitters and Authorized IRS e-file Providers/EROs
Please be advised that Publication 1436 ATS Known Issues has been posted to IRS.gov.
Please check the MeF [Status Page](#) for updates.

QuickAlerts –November 5, 2012

Subject: Form 1120 TY 2012 ATS Version

ATTN: Software Developers, Return Transmitters and Authorized IRS e-file Providers/EROs:

The following Tax Year 2012 schemas are available for ATS:

Form 1120/1120S/1120-F Schemas, Business Rules, and the Release Memo for

[TY2012v1.1](#) starting November 5, 2012

Form 1120/1120S/1120-F Schemas, Business Rules, and the Release Memo for [TY2012v1.2](#) starting December 17, 2012

Questions or comments may be directed to the e-help Desk at 1-866-255-0654.

QuickAlerts –November 9, 2012

Subject: 1040 Modernized e-File (1040 MeF) Production Shutdown/Cut Over Schedule

Attention: (MeF) Participants - Transmitters, Software Developers, Practitioners and States.

To ensure that all Form 1040 tax returns e-filed through the Modernized e-File (MeF) system are processed timely, the following 1040 MeF Production shutdown/cut over and acknowledgment retrieval schedule has been established. It is imperative that everyone adhere to the schedule shown below.

1040 MeF Production Shutdown/Cut Over Schedule:

Shutdown begins on Friday, November 23, 2012 and ends on Tuesday, January 22, 2013.

Important Note: States who schedule retrieval of their state submissions may have to change their schedule in order to retrieve submissions in time to validate returns and submit acknowledgements by 11:30 am, Eastern on November 23rd. Anything not retrieved thru MeF by 11:59 am on November 23rd, cannot be accessed again until MeF reopens for 1040 MeF Production on January 22, 2013.

Shutdown Deadlines on Friday, November 23, 2012, Eastern Time

Transmitters:

Transmitting Submissions (State & Federal) 10:00 am

Retrieving Acknowledgements 11:59 am

States:

Transmitting Acknowledgements 11:30 am

MeF Assurance Testing System (ATS) Schedule:

ATS will remain open throughout this production shutdown/cut over period (11/23/2012 - 01/22/2013).

Production Start Up on Tuesday, January 22, 2013, Eastern Time

Transmitters & States 9:00am

Important Note: BMF returns are not impacted by this IMF Production Shutdown/Cut over schedule.

Business MeF Production Shutdown/Cut Over Schedule:

Shutdown is tentatively scheduled to begin on Wednesday, December 26, 2012 at 11:59 am, and end on Monday, January 07, 2013 at 9:00 am, Eastern.

A QuickAlerts outlining the exact timeframes to Send Submissions or retrieve federal/state Acknowledgements will be issued in early December and the times will be posted on the MeF Status Page.

Please monitor the [MeF Status Page](#) for any updates. We apologize for any inconveniences and thank you for your cooperation.

QuickAlerts –November 9, 2012

Subject: Important Modernized e-File (MeF) Testing information/links on IRS.gov

To improve communication concerning software testing, the IRS recently revised content on IRS.gov on the [Modernized e-File \(MeF\) Assurance Testing System \(ATS\) Updates](#) page. It now contains 4 separate documents under the Tax-Year (TY) 2012 section

TY2012

Form 1040 - ATS Known Issues and Solutions - this document contains Individual return test scenarios updates, known issues and solutions

ATS, PATS and Production Call Log - this document contains issues that are not quickly resolved during the daily 4:00 pm Eastern calls that need follow-up

Form 1040 - ATS Disabled Business Rules (pending) - this document contains the list of disabled business rules

BMF - ATS Known Issues and Solutions - this document contains Business return test scenarios updates, known issues and solutions

If you have any question, please let us know through the [MeF Mailbox](#).

QuickAlerts –November 14, 2012

Subject: Participants Acceptance Testing System (PATS) Start Up for Tax Year 2012

ATTN: Software Developers, Return Transmitters and Authorized IRS e-file Providers/EROs
Participants Acceptance Testing System (PATS) – The 1040 e-file (Legacy) system is currently experiencing problems with PATS Start-Up. IRS is diligently working to resolve the problems as quickly as possible. A subsequent Quick Alert will be issued when the system is available. We apologize for the inconvenience this may cause you.

QuickAlerts –November 14, 2012

Subject: Participants Acceptance Testing System (PATS) Start-up for Tax Year 2012

ATTN: Software Developers, Return Transmitters and Authorized IRS e-file Providers/EROs
The Participants Acceptance Testing System (PATS) for the 1040 Legacy system is now available.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

QuickAlerts –November 19, 2012

Subject: Form 1040 Modernized e-File (1040 MeF) Production Shutdown/Cut-Over Schedule

Attention: (MeF) Participants - Transmitters, Software Developers and States

Pending shutdown for Individual 1040 Modernized e-File (MeF):

This is a reminder that the shutdown for 1040 MeF begins Friday, November 23, 2012.

1040 MeF Production Shutdown/Cut Over Schedule:

Shutdown begins on Friday, November 23, 2012 and ends on Tuesday, January 22, 2013.

Note: States who schedule retrieval of their state submissions may have to change their schedule in order to retrieve submissions in time to validate returns and submit acknowledgements by 11:30 am, Eastern on November 23rd. Anything not retrieved thru MeF

by 11:59 am on November 23rd, cannot be accessed again until MeF reopens for 1040 MeF Production on January 22, 2013.

Shutdown Deadlines on Friday, November 23, 2012 Eastern Time

Transmitters:

Transmitting Submissions (State & Federal)	10:00 am
Retrieving Acknowledgements	11:59 am

States:

Transmitting Acknowledgements	11:30 am
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MeF Assurance Testing System (ATS) Schedule:

ATS will remain open throughout this production shutdown/cut over period (11/23/2012 - 01/22/2013).

Production Start Up on Tuesday, January 22, 2013, Eastern Time

Transmitters & States	9:00 am
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Important Note: BMF returns are not impacted by this IMF Production Shutdown/Cut over schedule

Business MeF Production Shutdown/Cut Over Schedule:

Shutdown is tentatively scheduled to begin on Wednesday, December 26, 2012 at 11:59 am, and end on Monday, January 07, 2013 at 9:00 am, Eastern.

A QuickAlerts outlining the exact timeframes to Send Submissions or retrieve federal/state Acknowledgements for the Business MeF Production shutdown will be issued in early December and the times will be posted on the MeF Status Page.

Please monitor the [MeF Status Page](#) for any updates. We apologize for any inconveniences and thank you for your cooperation.

QuickAlerts –November 19, 2012

Subject: Electronic Management System (EMS) Martinsburg, WV and Memphis, TN unavailable

The Electronic Management System at the Enterprise Computing Center located in Martinsburg, WV and Memphis, TN are currently experiencing problems.

Effective 12:00 am ET November 20, 2012, you will not be able to connect to EMS until the problem is resolved.

A QuickAlerts will be issued when the system is available. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you.

QuickAlerts –November 20, 2012

Subject: Electronic Management System (EMS) Is Available

The Electronic Management System, located at Memphis, Tennessee and Martinsburg, West Virginia is now available.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you.

QuickAlerts –November 21, 2012

Subject: 94x XML Business e-file – Tax Year 2013 Updates (2013 Filing Season)

Attention: Software Developers, Return Transmitters and Authorized IRS e-file Providers/EROs
The 94x XML 2013 Final Schemas (version 3.1) are now posted to the irs.gov website. The 94x XML 2013 Final Schemas will be available for testing on November 27, 2012 and production on January 2, 2013. We strongly encourage that you test for all new changes. We have also provided the 94x XML Sample Schemas as a guide for you on irs.gov website.
For more information see Publication 3823.

QuickAlerts –November 21, 2012

Subject: Modernized e-File (MeF) Zip Utility

The IRS Modernized e-File (MeF) system will be upgrading from a 32-bit to 64-bit zip utility so that larger files can be supported. It will be deployed on December 17, 2012 in the Assurance Testing System (ATS) environment, and in the Production environment for January 2013 Startup. Files created using a 32-bit utility will continue to be accepted by MeF. All files - container files (outer zips), acknowledgements, etc. - sent by the MeF system will be zipped using the ZIP_PKWARE_64 zip utility, regardless of the size of the files. The IRS recommends that all transmitters test their systems and confirm that they are able to unzip these files.

QuickAlerts –November 27, 2012

Subject: Scheduled Modernized e-File (MeF) Production Downtime

Attention: All Modernized e-File (MeF) Business (BMF) Transmitters, Software Developers and States

The Modernized e-File system Production system will be unavailable from approximately 6:00 am until 4:00 pm, Eastern on Saturday, Dec 1, 2012 while the IRS conducts disaster readiness activities. This only effects the Production environment. The Assurance Testing System (ATS) will be operational as normal.

Please note that the regularly scheduled Sunday build window will take place from 1:00 am to 7:00 am, Eastern on Dec 2, 2012.

We apologize for any inconvenience caused by this extended timeframe. Thank you in advance for refraining from accessing the MeF Production and/or Assurance Testing Systems during this period.

Please note that there is additional Production downtime tentatively scheduled for Saturday, Dec 8, 2012 from 6:00 am until 4:00 pm Eastern.

If you have any question, please let us know through the [MeF Mailbox](#).

QuickAlerts –November 28, 2012

Subject: Update: Scheduled Modernized e-File (MeF) Production Downtime

Attention: All Modernized e-File (MeF) Business (BMF) Transmitters, Software Developers and States

The Modernized e-File system Production system will be unavailable from approximately 6:00 am until 4:00 pm, Eastern on Saturday, Dec 1, 2012 while the IRS conducts disaster readiness activities. This only effects the Production environment. The Assurance Testing System (ATS) will be operational as normal.

Update: Please note that the regularly scheduled Sunday build window will be extended from Saturday 9:00 pm, Eastern Dec 1st to Sunday 7:00 am, Eastern Dec 2, 2012.

We apologize for any inconvenience caused by this extended timeframe. Thank you in advance for refraining from accessing the MeF Production and/or Assurance Testing Systems during this period.

Please note that there is additional Production downtime tentatively scheduled for Saturday, Dec 8, 2012 from 6:00 am until 4:00 pm Eastern.

If you have any question, please let us know through the [MeF Mailbox](#).

QuickAlerts –November 29, 2012

Subject: 2nd Update: Scheduled Modernized e-File (MeF) Production and Assurance Testing System (ATS) Downtime

Attention: All Modernized e-File (MeF) Business (BMF) Transmitters, Software Developers and States

The Modernized e-File system Production and Assurance Testing System (ATS) system will be unavailable from approximately **2:00 pm Eastern Saturday Dec 1st until 7:00 am, Eastern Sunday, Dec 2, 2012** while the IRS conducts disaster readiness and extended build activities.

We apologize for any inconvenience caused by this extended timeframe. Thank you in advance for refraining from accessing the MeF Production and/or Assurance Testing Systems during this period.

Please note that there is additional Production downtime tentatively scheduled for Saturday, Dec 8, 2012 from 6:00 am until 4:00 pm Eastern.

If you have any question, please let us know through the [MeF Mailbox](#).

QuickAlerts –November 30, 2012

Subject: Publication 4162 - Tax Year 2012

ATTN: Software Developers, Return Transmitters and Authorized IRS e-file Providers/EROs
Please be advised that an Assurance Testing System (ATS) Change Page for the Tax Year 2012 Publication 4162, Modernized e-file Test Package for Forms 1120/1120-S/1120-F/7004, has been posted on IRS.gov.

Questions or comments may be directed to the e-help Desk at 1-866-255-0654.